1 REMARKS

2 This Preliminary Amendment amends the claims in this patent application. Accordingly, Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 17, and 20 have been amended with this 3 Preliminary Amendment while Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 have 4 not been amended. Claims 1 through 22 are presently pending in this application. An 5 amended page one (1) of the specification claiming the international filing date and the 6 7 priority date is also included. If the Office has any concerns over these amendments or if there are any obstacles to allowance, the undersigned would welcome a telephone call to 8 discuss the matter before any formal action is taken. 9

10 Respectfully submitted,

12 12 - Oct - 2004 13 Date

11

14 15

16

17

18

19

C. Dean Domingue, Reg. No. 33,682 Domingue & Waddell, PLC

Post Office Box 3405 Lafayette, Louisiana 70502 Phone: (337) 266.2304

Fax: (337) 266.2305 Customer No. 29166